



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FACT SHEET

SANDERS REMINDS SAN DIEGANS TO SHUT OFF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Mayor Calls for Continued Water Conservation As Rains Return

Mayor Jerry Sanders is calling on all San Diegans today to shut off irrigation systems in advance of expected rain storms. Weather forecasts show rains across the region through at least Monday of next week. The new storms follow recent drenching rains and will allow San Diegans to keep their irrigation systems off for up to two weeks according to water conservation experts.

“The rains we have been receiving and may continue to get through next week are going to keep our lawns and gardens wet enough. There’s no need to turn on our sprinklers for about two weeks after the rains are done. We shouldn’t waste water by turning irrigation systems back on too early. The ongoing drought and other challenges to our water supply force us to be smart in the way we use water. Keeping our sprinklers off is the smart move,”

Mayor Jerry Sanders

Given the challenges facing water supplies for San Diego, conserving water has become everyone’s responsibility. The region’s water supplies have been impacted by drought conditions around California; Federal court cases that limit water supplies from the Bay Delta in Northern California; and weak snowfall amounts over the past several years.

The City of San Diego Water Department provides information and support for those working to improve their water conservation efforts. There are several City programs that can help San Diegans better manage outdoor irrigation systems including:

1. **Water Use Surveys** - Commercial and residential customers can call the City at (619) 570-1999 to request a survey. A trained professional will assess the current irrigation system, look for inefficiencies, and develop a customized irrigation schedule for homeowners. This service is provided free of charge.
2. **The Landscape Watering Calculator** – Homeowners interested in getting started on better irrigation practices immediately can log on to www.sandiego.gov/water and click on the Landscape Watering Calculator tab. This nationally recognized tool lets homeowners follow a few simple steps to develop a customized irrigation schedule for their yards.
3. **Weather-based Irrigation Controllers** – These “smart” controllers automatically adjust run times as the season and daytime temperatures change, and shut irrigation systems during rainy days. The City of San Diego currently offers substantial rebates for these irrigation controllers. Call (619) 570-1999, or visit www.sandiego.gov/water for more information on the rebate program.
4. **The Commercial Landscape Incentive Program** – In addition to the “smart” controller rebated program, commercial landscape property owners can also avail themselves of incentives for other water efficient irrigation fixtures. Call (619) 570-1999, or visit www.sandiego.gov/water for more information on these incentives.

For more information about water conservation in the San Diego region, or to access the programs listed above, visit www.sandiego.gov/wateremergency. You can also learn more by calling the City’s Water Department at (619) 515-3500.

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